

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 7 are amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,780,731 to Matsui et al. (Matsui) in view of U.S. Patent 6,201,310 to Adachi et al. (Adachi). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Matsui or Adachi, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest a belt-drive system driven by an internal combustion engine mounted on an automotive vehicle, the belt-drive system comprising . . . wherein the plurality of the driven pulleys include a pulley of an automatic belt-tensioner that controls a belt tension and pulleys of a first generator and a second generator, an inertia moment of the first generator being larger than an inertia moment of the second generator; the pulley of the first generator includes a one-way clutch that transmits rotational torque in one direction from the crankshaft pulley to a rotor of the first generator; the pulley of the second generator is a solid pulley that transmits rotational torque in both directions between the crankshaft pulley and a rotor of the second generator; and the pulley of the first generator is coupled to the belt at a position closer to the pulley of the belt-tensioner than the pulley of the

second generator, as recited in amended claim 6, or the similar features recited in the remaining rejected claims.

As pointed out in the Office Action, Matsui discloses an automobile engine having a driving pulley 6 and a plurality of driven pulleys connected to the driving pulley by a belt 7. As admitted in the Office Action, Matsui discloses only one generator (i.e., alternator pulley 4). Thus, Matsui fails to disclose a first and second generator as recited in the rejected claims. Furthermore, although Matsui discloses a generator, there is no disclosure of the generator including a one-way clutch that transmits rotational torque in one direction from the crank shaft pulley to a rotor of the first generator.

In an effort to overcome the admitted deficiency of Matsui failing to disclose a system including two generators, Adachi is combined to allegedly provide those features deficient from Matsui. Although Adachi discloses first and second generators 21, 22, Adachi fails to disclose or suggest the first generator having a one-way clutch, as recited in the rejected claims.

Moreover, although Adachi discloses a second generator 22, the pulley of the second generator is clutched so as to disconnect the pulley from the shaft. In contrast to the clutched second generator of Adachi, the rejected claims recite that the pulley of the second generator is a solid pulley that transmits rotational torque in both directions between the crank shaft pulley and the rotor of the second generator. Thus, Adachi actually teaches away from the second generator having a solid pulley in that it is a clutched pulley. Therefore, combining Adachi with Matsui fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims.

Additionally, it is alleged in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Matsui to not only include two generators but also to place the larger generator closer to the tensioner, as recited in the

rejected claims. However, there is no suggestion or motivation to make such a modification in either of the references. In fact, Adachi fails to disclose a tensioner of any type and therefore cannot provide the motivation or suggestion to place the larger of the two generators closer to the tensioner. Moreover, as Matsui only discloses a single alternator, there is again no motivation or suggestion to place a larger of two alternators closer to the tensioner without the improper use of hindsight.

As the combination of references fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, and because there is no motivation or suggestion to make the combination as proposed in the Office Action, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Double Patenting

Claim 6 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 4 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application 10/648,389 in view of Adachi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

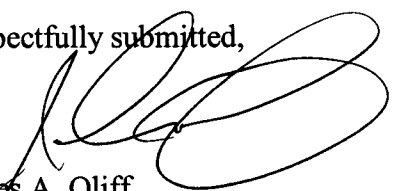
Neither co-pending U.S. Patent Application 10/648,389, or Adachi, whether considered alone or in combination, render the subject matter of amended claim 6 obvious. It is alleged in the Office Action that because Adachi discloses a pulley 22A (the clutch pulley of the second generator) that the subject matter of claim 6 is rendered obvious in light of the co-pending U.S. patent application. However, even were a such a combination made, the combination fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the amended claims. Moreover, the combination of references fails to disclose the subject matter of claim 6 for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the provisional rejection of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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